

REMARKS

Claim 1-3, 5-11, 13-32, and 34-36 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 13-15, 21, 28, 29, 31 and 36 have been amended. Amendments to claims 2, 6, 13-15, 21, 28 and 29 are editorial in nature. Claims 4, 12, and 33 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 31, 32, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gifford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,836,507) in view of Kitade et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,262). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in view of the amendments made to claims 1, 8, 31, and 36.

Allowable Claims and Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4-7, 11-15, and 33-35 contained allowable subject matter and that claims 16-30 were allowed. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submits that all of the claims (claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-32, and 34-36) are allowable.

Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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